



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Latin Names.	2d Ed. L. Sp.	English Names.	Observations.
Lechee		Lechee of China	This fruit is highly com- mended by all persons who have been in Chi- na .
Ipecacuanha	Dale. 170 Margrave 17	Ipecacuanha of the shops, or Brazilian root	Very useful in medicine, and worthy of our at- tention to propagate it in our West-India islands : at present its genus is unknown to the botanists.
Ferula Assa Fœ- tida	Lin. Sp. 356	Assa Fœtida, or Devil's dung, called Hing in the Malay lan- guage	The gum of this plant is much used in medicine. Kæmpf. 535 and 536.

To this catalogue may be added liquorice, saffron, and aloes focotorina : of the two first we do not raise near a sufficiency at home for our own consumption, but are obliged to import those articles from Spain.

The Society having thought proper to give a place to the foregoing Catalogue ; it may be necessary to subjoin some DIRECTIONS, (taken also from Mr. Ellis's Pamphlet,) for bringing over Seeds and Plants from distant Countries, in a state of Vegetation.

MANY valuable trees and plants, yet unknown to us, grow in distant countries, particularly in the Northern Provinces of China, about the latitude of 40 degrees, which would thrive well in North-America, more especially in these middle Colonies, which lie about the same latitude. But as the distance is great, the manner of preserving the Seeds properly, so as to keep them in a state of vegetation, is an affair of considerable consequence and some difficulty. The following hints are therefore offered for that purpose.

IN

The characters of this fruit are not yet known to the botanists,

IN the first place it ought to be carefully attended to, that the Seeds should be perfectly ripe when they are gathered, and they should be gathered, if possible, in dry weather; afterwards they should be spread thin on paper or matts, in a dry airy room, but not in sunshine. The time necessary for this operation will vary according to the heat of the climate, or season of the year, from a fortnight to a month, or perhaps two may be necessary; the hotter the season, the less time will suffice. This is to carry off their superfluous moisture, which if confined would immediately turn to mouldiness, and end in rotteness.

As there are two methods that have succeeded, and put us in possession of several young plants of the true tea-tree of China, I shall mention them both, in order to assist the collector in bringing home the seeds of many valuable plants.

THE first is by covering them with bees-wax in the manner explained in Phil. Transact. vol. LVIII. p. 75.

It principally consists in choosing only such seeds as are perfectly sound and ripe. To prove this, we must cut open some of them to judge what situation the rest may be in, taking care to lay aside any that are outwardly defective, or marked with the wounds of insects. When a proper choice of them is made, they should be wiped extremely clean, to prevent any dirt or moisture being inclosed; each seed then should be rolled up carefully in a coat of soft bees-wax half an inch thick: the deep yellow English bees-wax is the best. When you have covered the number you intend to inclose, pour some of this bees-wax melted into a chip-box of six or seven inches long, four broad, and three deep, till it is above half full; and just before it begins to harden, while it is yet fluid, put in the Seeds you have rolled up in rows till the box is near full; then pour over them some more wax while it is just fluid, taking care when it is cold to stop all the cracks or chinks that may have proceeded from the shrinking of the wax, with some very soft wax; then put on the cover of the box, and keep it in as cool and airy a place as you can.

THE

THE method of inclosing tea-seeds singly in wax, and bringing them over in that state, has been practised for some time ; but few have succeeded, owing to the thinness of the coat of wax, or putting paper first round them, or inclosing them too moist.

To this I must add a method that promises success for bringing over plants from the West-Indies, and the southern parts of North-America, particularly West-Florida, the voyage from hence being longer than from the West-Indies, and more attention is required to keep the plants in health, than from any other parts of our North-American settlements : but as there is a good deal of difference in the climates of these places, it will be necessary to observe, that plants from the West-Indies should be put on board in the latter end of spring, so as to arrive here in warm weather, otherwise they will be destroyed by the cold of this latitude ; and the ever-greens, which are the most curious from West-Florida, must be sent in the winter months, while their juices are inactive, so as to arrive here before the heats come on. If the plants sent from these countries were planted in pots or boxes, and kept there a year, they might be brought over with very little hazard ; or even if they were first transplanted from the woods into a garden, till they had formed roots, they might be sent with much more safety.

THE size of the boxes that will be most convenient for stowing them on board merchant-ships, where there is very little room to spare, should be three feet long, fifteen inches broad, and from eighteen inches to two feet deep, according to the size of the young trees ; but the smallest will be most likely to succeed, provided they are well rooted. There must be a narrow ledge nailed all round the inside of the box, within six inches of the bottom, to fasten laths or packthread to form a kind of lattice-work, by which the plants may be the better secured in their places. If the plants are packed up just before the ship sails, it will be so much the better.

WHEN they are dug up, care must be taken to preserve as much earth as can be about their roots ; and if it should fall
off,

off, it must be supplied with more earth, so as to form a ball about the roots of each Plant, which must be surrounded with wet moss, and carefully tied about with packthread, to keep the earth about the roots moist : perhaps it may be necessary to inclose the moss with some paper or broad leaves (as the palmetto) that the packthread may bind the moss the closer. Loamy earth will continue moist the longest. There must be three inches deep of wet moss put into the bottom of the box, and the young trees placed in rows upright close to each other, stuffing wet moss in the vacancies between them, and on the surface ; over this palmetto leaves, if to be had, should be put to keep in the moisture, and over them the laths are to be fastened cross and cross to the ledges or packthreads to be laced to and fro, to keep the whole steady and tight. The lid of the box should be either nailed down close, or may have hinges and a padlock to secure it from being opened, as may be found necessary, with proper directions marked on it to keep the lid uppermost. There must be two handles fixed, one at each end, by which means there will be less danger of disturbing the plants. Near the upper part of the ends of the box, there must be several holes bored to give air : or in making the box there may be a narrow vacancy left between the boards of one third of an inch wide, near the top, to let out the foul air ; and perhaps it may be necessary to nail along the upper edge of these openings list, or slips of sail-cloth, to hang over them, to secure the plants from any spray of the sea ; and at the same time it will not prevent the air from passing through. Boxes with plants packed in this manner, must be placed where there is free air, that is, out of the way of the foul air of the ship's hold.

THE following method of preserving seeds from turning rancid from their long confinement, and the great heat of the climates which they must necessarily pass through from China, was communicated to me some years ago by the celebrated Professor Linnæus, of Upsal, in Sweden. He advises, that each sort of Seed should be put up in separate papers, with fine sand among them, to absorb any moisture (dried, loamy, or soapy earth may be tried) : these papers, he says, should be packed close in cylindrical glass, or earthen vessels, and the

mouths covered over with a bladder, or leather tied fast round the rims : he then directs that these vessels, with the seeds in them, should be put into other vessels, which should be so large, that the inner vessel may be covered on all sides, for the space of two inches, with the following mixture of salts. Half common culinary salt ; the other half to consist of two parts of salt-petre, and one part of sal-ammoniac, both reduced to a powder, and all thoroughly mixed together, to be placed about the inner vessel, rather moist than dry. This he calls a refrigeratory ; and says it will keep the seeds cool, and hinder putrefaction. Perhaps if small tight boxes, or casks or bottles of seeds were inclosed in casks full of salts, it might be of the same use, provided the salts do not get at the seeds ; and as sal-ammoniac may not be easily met with, half common salt, and the other half salt-petre, or common salt alone, might answer the same end. But it would be very necessary to try both methods, to know whether the latter would answer the purpose of the former, as it would be attended with much less trouble, and might prove a useful method to our seedsmen, in sending seeds from hence to those warm climates.

THE smallest seeds being very liable to lose their vegetative power by long voyages through warm climates, it may be worth while to try the following experiment upon such kinds as we know for certain are found. Dip some square pieces of cotton cloth in melted wax, and while it is soft and almost cold, strew the surface of each piece over with each sort of small seed, then roll them up tight, and inclose each roll in some soft bees-wax, wrapping up each of them in a piece of paper, with the name of the seed on it ; these may be either surrounded as before with salts, or packed without the salts in a box, as is most convenient.

THERE are many seeds, which we receive both from the West Indies and the southern parts of our North-American colonies, as South-Carolina, Georgia, &c. which the gardeners find very difficult to raise here, unless the following method is pursued. Divide a box, according to your quantity and sorts of seeds, into several square petitions ; then mix the seeds with loamy earth and cut moss, and put each sort into its separate

parate cell, filling it up to the top : the earth and moss must be rather inclining to dry than wet ; then nail the lid down very close on your box, keeping it in an airy situation. If the voyage does not exceed two months, they will arrive in good order in the spring ; and, though many of them may begin to germinate, yet, if they are sown directly, they will succeed much better than those that are brought over in papers, as is well known to our most curious gardeners. Seeds of the nutmeg-tree from Tobago, the cinnamon-tree, the cacao or chocolate-nut, and Avocado pear, must be brought in this manner. Seeds of all the sorts of magnolias, stewartias, chionanthus, and many others from South-Carolina, will succeed better this way, than any other method we yet know.

THE seeds of many of the small succulent fruits may be brought to England from very distant parts, by pressing them together, squeezing out their watery juices, and drying them in small cakes gradually, that they may become hard ; they may be then wrapt up in white writing paper, not spongy, as this is apt to attract and retain moisture ; but I believe it will be found, that a covering of wax will be better than one of paper.

THE Alpine strawberry was first sent to England in a letter from Turin to Henry Baker, Esq; F. R. S. by pressing the pulp with the seeds thin upon paper, and letting it dry before they were inclosed. The paper mulberry from China was brought hither about the year 1754, much in the same manner.

THESE hints may prompt us to try the larger succulent fruits ; for instance, the mangoes, lechees, and others of this kind : if their fleshy part, when they are very ripe, was brought to the consistence of raisins or dried figs, it would keep their kernels plump, and in this state they might be better preserved in wax, than by any other method yet known.